



Berkshire, Holyoke, Greenfield and Mount Wachusett Community Colleges to each receive \$785,000

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman John Olver announced that Massachusetts' 15 community colleges, including four in the First Congressional District, will receive a total of \$20 million from the U.S. Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training program, to support a partnership between community colleges and employers to develop a state-wide jobs training program. Massachusetts' award is the third largest state award in the country. Each community college in the state, including Berkshire, Holyoke, Greenfield and Mount Wachusett Community Colleges, will receive \$785,000.

"Massachusetts has some of the finest community colleges in the nation, and these institutions represent one of the greatest tools we have for revitalizing and growing our workforce. This program will encourage and guide the next generation of workers into growing industries as our economy works toward recovery," said Congressman Olver.

The funding, awarded to Quinsigamond Community College on behalf of the Massachusetts Community Colleges' Consortium, would partner the 15 member colleges of the consortium with state and national leaders in the fields of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, Information Technology, Health Care, Clean Energy, Advanced Manufacturing, and Financial Services and Entrepreneurship. Through these partnerships, the Consortium would develop comprehensive, accelerated training programs geared towards training adult learners, eligible under the TAA program, to transition into a new field.

This past year, Massachusetts Community Colleges have provided more than 23,000 individuals with training or retraining through workforce development courses and programs.

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